Mr. Paul Wurtzel
1688 Sunset Plaza Drive
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2/23/76

Dear Paul,

Your letter of the 21st made remarkably good time. It came this morning.

It was good to talk to you yesterday. I appreciate your taking the time.

I've just returned from having the regular blood test and at the same time getting new glasses, I've finished the chapter on which I was working, and I'm surprised that Playboy hasn't called yet. They must be holding a war council all morning. But I have to be free for it.

I suppose you live with these kinds of situations: fantastic waste, incredible executive stupidity, and contracting for and then until too late not using an expert. As my wife said this morning, by any evaluation of the worth of time alone they've taken much more then the fee justifies already and we're not done.

The books will go out in tomorrow's mail. Thanks.

I'm finding as I write, even with the determination to eliminate much, not to turn out something as comprehensive as Post Mortem, that the new King book is running longer than I'd expected. However, I'm satisfied that it is structred for easy cutting, if that should be necessary.

The material is so volumnious and diversified I've not attempted an outline. I had about three hours to think this trhough back in January and decided against trying. It would have required as long as writing to go through the material I have. Instead I decided on a structure. I have been following that rather than an outline. I'm finding that it seems to be a good one, perhaps the best, and that in the writing so much comes back to mind! Thus what I'd planned as a single chapter with the last two in each case has required breaking into two. If my judgement is wrong the way I've put it together relatively simple cutting can make each into one and what is considered unnecessary will come out easily. I'm not in a position to judge because since the second chapter I've not, as I told you, taken time to read. Instead I'm getting it onto paper.

I'm hoping that with the way I've worked on the current part, the mysterious death of Judge Battle (Think I'll title the second chapter of the two on it "Died in Battle" because the legal rights did and the rest that goes with it also did) with simple editing it will make a separate magazine piece that with attention will apply pressures where they may be helpful. This is the part that I said would provide the plot for a movie, whether or not on this case.

If there is the Las Vegas speech I think I'd like to go to LA and from there go to Frisco to see a friend and then return. I'll be spending a few days in Vegas if I go to interview and work with the man you don't know. But when you told me your neighbor was one of the Hollywood Ten not only do I want to get there to meet you but I'd like very much to make an oral history of that affair and my prior experiences I mentioned briefly. Here they called. I can get to other work for a couple of hours unless the editor calls. If you think it will not bug Townsend, let me add to what I told you about the auccess of my fight, when I had no such support, no funding like and no press like the Ten. When it was all over and I had won the assistant DA who wound up with me, a brash kid, taking his own damned grand jury away from him and having to fight my own lawyer and everyone else to do it, had so much respect for me he risked being disbarred to give me a stenographic transcipt of the grand jury testimony that I might need in the future. Not mine. That of others which showed they could come up with nothing wrong I'd done. He is now dead or I'd still not say anything. He became chief war crimes prosecutor in Tokyo. The point here is <u>how</u> one fights. The Ten didn't know how tragically. Maybe because their professional lives were with unreality. Best,